



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

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Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Search Continues for Missing Hiker in Rocky Mountain National Park

Search efforts are continuing today for park visitor Hillel Ben-Avi who became lost in the northern part of Rocky Mountain National Park on Sunday, August 28. The Mummy Range is a remote, high altitude, heavily forested, rugged area which includes Fairchild Mountain, Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and other prominent peaks. Ben-Avi was last seen near the summit of Fairchild Mountain at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 28.

Ben-Avi was hiking ahead of his brother on Sunday and was last seen near the summit of Fairchild Mountain at approximately 1:30 p.m. When his brother reached the summit, Hillel was not there. Park rangers received two phone calls from Ben-Avi late Sunday afternoon, both of which were limited by marginal reception. It is suspected that the cell phone battery may have run out of power. During the last conversation, Hillel was instructed to return to a lake he had passed to wait for searchers, it is unknown whether he did this.

The search area will continue to be focused near lakes, drainages, high hazard areas and heavily forested areas in the Mummy Range. Approximately 100 people, two dog teams and two helicopters, including one with thermal imaging capabilities are involved in today's search efforts. Park employees have been searching for Ben-Avi since Sunday evening and are being assisted by Larimer County Search and Rescue, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, Alpine

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Rescue, Front Range Search and Rescue Dogs, SAR DOC (Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado) and a variety of individual resources from other teams and organizations. Last night 22 people camped in the backcountry near Lawn Lake and Upper Fay Lakes. One dog team searched through the night, hoping to take advantage of cooler temperatures and favorable winds.

Mr. Ben-Avi is 45 years old with brown hair and brown eyes. He is from Austin, Texas. He may be wearing a blue/purple jacket with orange on the sleeves, gray pants, green and gray ball cap and carrying a blue-green Jansport daypack. Ben-Avi does not have any pre-existing health conditions and is described as athletic, however he was not prepared to spend the night in the back country.

Park officials are asking visitors who might have been hiking in the Mummy Range area on Sunday, August 28 or Monday, August 29 to please contact the park at (970) 586-1204 for help in determining a more recent location where he might have been last seen.

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